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DL
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MS NON-FEE AMENDMENT
PATENT
0445-0299P

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Takao KASAI et al. Conf.: 5485
Appl. No.: 09/852,804 Group: 3761
Filed: May 11, 2001 Examiner: J. Stephens
For: ABSORBENT ARTICLE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

July 2, 2003

Sir:

Preliminary to any action in the RCE application, and further in response to the final rejection of January 2, 2003 in the parent application, the following amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 5, 12 and 13 as follows:

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- C1
- Sub D1
1. (Amended) An absorbent article comprising a liquid retentive absorbent layer containing a superabsorbent polymer and a liquid-impermeable leak proof layer, wherein an agent having a skin care effect and not causing a substantial reduction in water absorbing performance of said superabsorbent polymer is fixed on a prescribed region of said absorbent article in a state ready to be released from that region on contact with moisture.